

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Response to FCC 05-235: Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to implement
WRC-03 Regulations Applicable to Requirements for Operator
Licenses in the Amateur Radio Service.

To the Commission:

I am Christian Reynolds, Amateur Radio Operator KC0ARF, of Green Bay Wisconsin, and I fully support the Commission's actions to **remove** Morse Code as a licensing criteria, for all license classes. I am a Technician Class licensee, and have been held back from exploring the mysteries of HF communications due to the code barrier.

Please allow me to expand on some points that I have observed in recent discussions.

- 1) A number of commenting people on internet BLOGS and within already filed comments claim that Morse Code would be invaluable during a large, widespread emergency. If that is the case, why aren't the coders regularly tested and re-certified on their code knowledge? People entrusted to perform CPR, such as ambulance personnel, have to re-certify every couple years, or their knowledge is considered void. As a computer network administrator, I myself need to re-certify to demonstrate skills. If Morse Code is so important to National Security, then why aren't Amateurs re-certifying? Why did the US Military drop internal training on the code?
- 2) Other commentators have insulted the Citizens Band radio service in various fashions by claiming that the service is full of second or third-class citizens, and feel that your actions will result in the destruction of Amateur Radio as we know it. You may be surprised that important work still occurs on the Citizen's Band, such as weather spotting, public service activities such as missing person drills, and goodwill service such as helping lost motorists around town. Yes, there are a lot of noisy conversations on some of the channels, but please do not dismiss the service as a whole. Amateur Radio will not become another Citizen's Band due to the internal policing of the service through the care of other hams in the community.
- 3) I am thankful that the FCC did not simply "promote" the present Technician Class to General, and elected not to "promote" the Advanced Class to Extra. I want to earn the General license. I have passed the written exam 3 times, and look forward to passing it a 4th time and becoming a General with the code requirement removed.
- 4) I agree that the Morse Code requirement be removed from the Amateur Extra class. I agree with your reasoning in paragraphs 19 and 20. I believe that if people want the Extra license to be the crème-of-the-crop license, then their exam should feature a lab practical, where the examinee has to make something work, perhaps he/she needs to construct a working antenna system, or tune a set of repeater receivers. I also feel, that with the passing of 05-235, that the FCC will put the code issue to bed once and for all, and allow the Amateur Radio Service to move on in a constructive atmosphere.
- 5) Morse Code is not a demonstration of intelligence. A brief examination of the misspelled, unformatted, rambling commentary should be self-convincing.

- 6) I do not think that a new beginner's license is necessary. I began in Amateur Radio with a Technician License, and had plenty to work with in 2m and 440... such as APRS, repeater transmissions, building an IRLP transmitter, packet radio, and if I wanted to, I could explore working the ISS or the other "birds" (amateur satellites). With the code removal, I think the General is something that a dedicated Technician can achieve with a little bit of work that will generate a lot of radio wisdom.
- 7) I am not in favor of reducing the protected Morse Code sub-bands that those users enjoy. I think that they should receive protected space in the HF spectrum.

In conclusion, I would like to applaud the FCC for bringing this topic forward, and ordering the removal of Morse Code examination to qualify for a General and Extra Class license. I look forward to learning about HF frequencies, building the antenna systems to transmit an effective signal, and communicating with someone outside the Midwest, perhaps even overseas. I look forward to learning how to emit an HF signal from a mobile (car) installation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Christian Reynolds
KC0ARF